

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

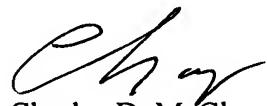
In an Office Action in the parent application dated February 14, 2007 claim 6, the only claim in the application, was rejected as being obvious over Grandone, U.S. Patent 3,712,296 in view of Jaeger, U.S. Patent 2,668,274. In the Office Action the Examiner indicated that Grandone disclosed all the steps in claim 6 except that the step of urging the sleeve along the handle and against the swab tip to remove the swab tip completely from the handle is not disclosed. It was the Examiner's position that Jaeger teaches an alternate means for removing a swab tip from a handle which allows the swab tip to be removed from the handle and dropped without any of the handle being attached. Claim 6 has been amended to overcome this rejection.

As explained in the response to the previous Office Action, the key aspect of the subject invention is that it allows the swab tip to be removed from the handle and deposited into a collection device without any portion of the device used to remove the swab tip from the handle, and is touched by the person collecting the specimen, being deposited into the collection device along with the swab tip. This is done in order to prevent the specimen collected on the swab tip from being contaminated. In the swab shown in Jaeger, the sleeve 6 is attached to the swab tip 5 so that when the swab tip is removed from the handle 7 the sleeve stays with it. Since the person who removes the swab tip necessarily touches the sleeve to remove the swab tip from the handle the sleeve becomes contaminated. When the sleeve is deposited into the collection device along with the swab tip the specimen becomes contaminated also. Claim 6 has been amended to providing a sleeve which is "not attached to said swab tip," and to allow the swab tip to drop into the collection device without either said handle "or said sleeve" being attached. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that both Grandone and Jaeger teach away from the subject invention

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and do not provide the desired result that is achieved by the method of the subject invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 6 is not obvious over the combination of these two references.

Respectfully submitted,


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Of Attorneys for Applicant

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on August 14, 2007.

Dated: August 14, 2007



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